

along with two others, *R. montana* (Jerdon, 1854) and *R. triangularis* (Gunther, 1875) was referred to the genus *Callula* till Rao and Ramanna (1925) revised and renamed it under the genus *Ramanella*. Not much is known about the biology of the species. Rao and Ramanna (1925) report that the species is found in *termitaria* or under stones in association with large black scorpions *Heterometrus* sp. They live mostly underground and emerge only after heavy rains when their loud call *ghauy ghauy* can be heard throughout the night. The advertisement call was studied by Kanamadi *et al.* (1993) while its

breeding and development was studied by Dutta *et al.* (1991).

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23. *CHAGUNIUS CHAGUNIO* (HAMILTON-BUCHANAN) (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE): A NEW RECORD FROM KUMAON HILLS, UTTAR PRADESH

(With one text-figure)

During the course of observation of fishes caught by a fisherman from Kali-Sharda river from Baramdeo (240 m above msl near Tanakpur) a fish was observed, which was later identified as *Chagunius chagunio* (Hamilton-Buchanan). The river stretch where the fish was caught is a transition zone where the mountainous river (Kali) reaches the plains; further downstream, the river is known as Sharda. The river is very deep and moderately rapid at this zone and the substratum consists of rocks and sand.

The above mentioned fish was caught along with *Tor putitora* and *Labeo dero* on July

29, 1997 from the flooded river with the help of a locally fabricated gill net. *C. chagunio* has not been reported from Kumaon hills in earlier studies (Hora 1937, Menon 1949 and Pant 1970).

Chagunius chagunio Hamilton-Buchanan

Weight 217.0 g., Total length 27.5 cm., Standard length 22.5 cm., Head length 5.5 cm., Body depth 6.0 cm.

Local name: Musaina, Dhuiyan.

Diagnostic features: D. I 8; P iii 12; V ii 8; A ii 6; C. 22; L. 1 46

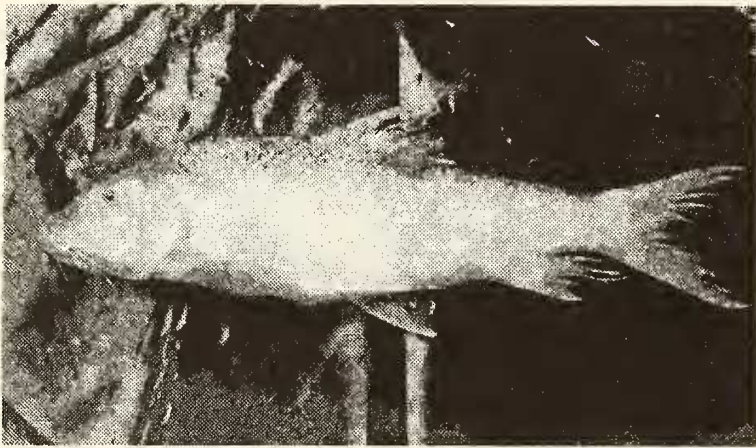


Fig. 1. *Chagunius chagunio* (Hamilton-Buchanan), male

Length of head 5 cm, height of body 4.5 cm in total length. Body elongate, its depth is more than its head length. Mouth narrow and subterminal, barbels 2 pairs, longer than orbit. Suborbital region, cheeks and anterior superior margin of the orbit is covered with numerous pores. Dorsal spine osseous, strong and recurved, its length is rather more than that of head, excluding the mouth. Dorsal fin commences midway between the end of the snout and the base of caudal fin. Scales small; lateral line complete; lateral line scales 46; 6 scale rows between lateral line and pelvic fin; 15 rows before the dorsal fin. The specimen is identified as male, because of the pronounced tubercles on snout and

cheek, and elongated last two anal fin rays extending to base of caudal fin.

Colour: Silvery with a pinkish tinge; black at scale margin. Fins reddish with light outer rays.

The occurrence of *C. chagunio* in this lotic water extends its distributional range upto the foothills of Kumaon Himalaya. In earlier studies, the distribution of the species was recorded from Orissa, throughout Bengal, Bihar and NW Province to the Punjab (Day 1878-88), Brahmaputra and Ganga drainages along the Himalayan foothills (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

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24. NEW RECORD OF *PUNTIUS MELANAMPYX* (CYPRINIFORMES: CYPRINIDAE) AND *MICROPHIS CUNCALUS* (SYNGNATHIFORMES: SYNGNATHIDAE) FROM KARNATAKA, INDIA

During a recent survey of fishes from the Western Ghats region of Northern Karnataka, a few specimens of *Puntius melanampyx* were

collected from a stream near Kadra (a tributary of Kali river, near dam site) and six specimens of *Microphis cuncalus* were also collected